LAND CONVEYANCE, PHELPS COUNTY, MO.

FEBRUARY 10, 1956.-Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. Cooley, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 7723]

The Committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7723) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands in Phelps County, Mo., to the Chamber of Commerce of Rolla, Mo., having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

This bill would authorize and direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey, without charge, to the Chamber of Commerce of Rolla, Mo., about 5 acres of land situated in the town of Rolla. The land is part of a 10-acre tract which was donated to the United States some years ago by the chamber of commerce. The Government has no present or foreseeable future need for the land and is informed that, if returned to the donors, it will be used for other public purposes.

The following letter from the Acting Secretary of Agriculture recommends enactment of H. R. 7723 and explains in some detail the need for the legislation.

> DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, Washington 25, D. C., December 15, 1955.

Hon. HAROLD D. COOLEY, Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, House of Representatives.

for a report on H. R. 7723, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands in Phelps County, Mo., to the Chamber of Commerce of Rolla, Mo. DEAR CONGRESSMAN COOLEY: This is in response to your request of August 4

We recommend that H. R. 7723 be enacted.

This bill would authorize and direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to the Chamber of Commerce of Rolla, Mo., without charge, a described parcel of lands situated in the town of Rolla, Phelps County, Mo. The parcel described in H. R. 7723 is the south half of a 10-acre tract donated to the United States by the said chamber of commerce in 1939 as a site for a repair shop and for other facilities in connection with the Civilian Conservation Corps program on national forest lands.

Subsequent to the donation, permanent structures were erected on the north half of the tract and a CCC camp on the south portion. These facilities were used by the Army during the war and the structures on the north half of the tract are currently used by the Department in connection with the administration of the Missouri national forests. The structures on the south half have been removed, and this area is not now being used by this Department. We do not foresee a future need for it. We understand that the chamber of commerce intends, if the tract is reconveyed to it, to make a portion of it available for a National Guard armory site and a portion for an addition to a city park.

Since the described tract was donated without cost to the United States, and is no longer necessary to operations of this Department in the area, and as it

Since the described tract was donated without cost to the United States, and as it apparently will be made available for desirable civic uses if conveyed to the chamber of commerce, we believe that the authorization in H. R. 7723 is desirable. There is no existing authority under which these lands can be conveyed to the

chamber of commerce without charge.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

TRUE D. MORSE, Acting Secretary.